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SUDAN NEWS-FEED

August 10, 2005

SUDAN NEWS-FEED For Wednesday, August 10, 2005

**Compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan.
The Sudan News-Feed attempts to present a summary covering the spectrum of Sudanese
press and international reporting about Sudan.**

**This report summarizes and covers the news but does not necessarily reflect the views of
the U.S. Government.**

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Top Headlines from the Sudanese Press

The following are top headlines from the Sudanese press on August 10, 2005:

******NOTE: "The Juba Post" (independent English-language weekly) has been suspended again, allegedly for not being able to pay the National Press Council's license fee (approximately \$10,000).**

"Khartoum Monitor"-- independent with pro-Southern Sudan orientation daily English-language newspaper

- ICG Warns Peace Soldiers
- Garang Wanted to Cancel Flight for Safety Reasons
- Bush Offers Condolences to Rebecca
- Uganda Dismisses Hijack Claims in Garang Crash
- Personal Letter to Garang's Successor
- SPLM/A Has Successfully Passed the First Test

- Abyei Border Demarcation Commission Report Sparks Fury Among Their Neighboring Pariang Dinka Community
- Police Raid Two Newspapers Despite Announced End of Censorship
- Investigations Into Garang's Death Must be Independent
- Communal Violence Threatens Peace Process
- Child Rights
- Editorial: Lt. General Salva Kiir is Most Welcome
- Commentary (regular columnist): Let Us Mourn the Late Dr. Garang De Mabior Peacefully and Respectfully
- Commentary (regular columnist): Probe Committee is Good but..
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Death of Dr. John Garang and the Looming Challenges
- Commentary (regular columnist): Twenty-One Years, Twenty-One Days

"Sudan Vision"-- pro-GOS daily English-language newspaper

<http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com>

- Bush Welcomes President Bashir's Commitment to Implement CPA
- VP Offers Condolences to SPLM Leadership, Garang Family
- Church Leaders Appeals for Calm
- Government, JEM Agree to Resume Talks on AU Proposed Date
- U.S. Transports Rwandan Civilian Police to Darfur, Action is Part of Larger NATO Effort Requested by African Union
- Appeal for Calm and End to Violence in Sudan, Message from Gabriel, Cardinal Zubei Wako
- UN Debate on Group of Four Security Council Reform
- How Much New U.S. Oil? Not a Lot
- Child Mothers Face Stigma of Rejection
- UNICEF Helps Former Child Soldiers Return to their Families
- UN Sec. General Message on the International Day of Indigenous People
- Editorial: An Opportune Climate
- Commentary (regular columnist): On the Road to Permanent Peace
- Commentary (regular columnist): Human Essence of Responsible Writing
- Commentary (regular columnist): Robin Cook Dies
- Commentary (regular columnist): Kiir: South Sudan Needs Financial Institutions as Key Components of Development

"Al-Ayaam"-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper

<http://www.alayaam.net>

- Foreign Minister: We Have Not Accepted Yet the U.S. Envoy to Sudan
- GOS Suspicious of Ugandan Statements Regarding Unknown Corpse in VP Plane Wreckage
- Popular Congress Party and NDA Call for Formation of an Independent Committee
- Three AU Soldiers Arrested With Charges of Seizure of Forged U.S. Currency

- The Burning of 600 Stores in Souk 6 in Area of Haj Yousif
- Attorney General Interrogates JEM Defendant
- Khartoum Criminal Court Issues Verdicts on 800 Defendants Involved in Death of Security Officer
- Editorial: The Committee of Alir
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Role of Paulino Mattep?

“Al-Adwaa”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Taha Presents Condolences to SPLA Leadership in Juba and Calls for Unity of National Front
- MFA Forms Special Committee to Follow Up Ugandan Statements on Garang’ s Plane
- MFA: Appointment of U.S. Envoy is Still Under Review
- Fact Finding Committee on Incidents of Rioting Take the Oath
- Attorney General Interrogates JEM Defendant

“Alwatan ”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper alwatan@myway.com

- JEM Agree to Resume Abuja Talks as Scheduled, SLA Calls for Postponement
- Taha Calls for Unity of National Front
- Salva Kiir Arrives Khartoum Today
- The Burning of 600 Stores in Souk 6 In Haj Yousif

“Al-Anbaa” -- the Government-owned daily Arabic-language newspaper www.alanbaa.info

- Committee to Investigate Rioting Incidents Begin Investigations
- Vice President Taha Calls for Unifying National Front
- Salva Kiir Arrives Khartoum Today
- Special Court in North Darfur to Review 16 Cases

“Al-Rai Al-Aam” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper <http://www.rayaam.net>

- Salva Kiir Arrives Khartoum Today to Swear in As First Vice President Tomorrow
- Taha Presents His Condolences to SPLA
- GOS Considered Statements Made by Ugandan on Unknown Corpse As “Strange”
- MFA Follows Up on Case of Sudanese Detainees in U.K.
- Total of 154 Million U.S. Dollars Allocates for Government of the South
- Commentary (regular columnist): Between Hinting and Declaring: The Statements of U.S. Envoy Roger Winter

“Al-Sahafa”-- pro-GOS but increasingly independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alsahafa.info/news>

- Taha: Peace Will Persevere Despite What Incidents of Last Monday
- NDA Refuses to Participate in Power According to Proposal of Hexagonal Committee
- Hexagonal Committee Meet Today to Assess the Current Situation
- New Measures Implemented to Decrease Inflation Rate
- NDA Calls for Independent Committee to Investigate into Rioting Incidents
- Police Force Affirm Stability in Khartoum

“Al-Hayat” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alhayatsdn.com>

- Taha Presents His Condolences to SPLA
- Ministry of Finance Implements New Measures to Decrease Inflation Rate
- Foreign Minister: The Mission of U.S. Envoy Winter Has Not Been Finalized Yet
- Media Conspiracy Targeting Peace Agreement Between the GOS And the SPLA

“Al-Khartoum” - pro-Democratic Unionist Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Taha in Juba: Peace is Our Responsibility After the Death of Garang
- GOS Criticizes Ugandan Minister of Interior’s Statements
- New Measures Implemented to Decrease Inflation Rate
- Clashes in Kalakla and Police Force Affirm Stability of Situation
- Editorial: Take Off Your Hands

“Alwan”-- pro -Popular Congress Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- GOS Criticizes Ugandan Minister of Interior’s Statements
- Taha: The Incidents of Last Monday Were an Exception; Peace is the Foundation
- Umma Party Conditions the Participation of All to Participate in New Government
- Ministry of Finance Implements New Measures to Decrease Inflation Rate
- Commentary: On the Statements of the U.S. Envoy to Sudan

“Al-Sharia Al-Siyasi” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper

- GOS and SPLA Assess Uganda Statements Regarding Garang Plane Crash
- MFA Hints at Possibility of Rejecting U.S. Envoy to Sudan
- Ministry of Finance Intervenes to Combat Increase in Sugar Prices

The following articles from the Sudanese and international press are included in full in the attachment below.

The Washington Post

In Sudan, Sitting in One Prison to Escape Another

By Emily Wax

August 10, 2005

The Associated Press

Sudan's Salva Kiir Has Scant Experience

By Tanalee Smith

August 10, 2005

Xinhua

Garang's Death Could Affect Refugee Repatriation Plans

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Xinhua

No Other People Killed In Garang Crash - Uganda

August 10, 2005

Reuters

Khartoum At Fault In Post-Garang Violence - ICG

By Andrew Cawthorne

August 9, 2005

Reuters

Thousands Trek Home After Sudan Peace Deal

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Sudan's Salva Kiir Has Scant Experience

By Tanalee Smith

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The Chicago Tribune

'Lost Boys' Return To Sudan To Rebuild

By Oscar Avila

August 9, 2005

The Voice of America

Uganda Joins Sudan in Investigating Garang's Death

By William Eagle

August 9, 2005

Buffalo News

Bad News For Darfur

Editorial

August 9, 2005

Other websites for Sudan News:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/May/12-676357.html?chanlid=washfile>

<http://www.state.gov>

<http://allafrica.com>

<http://www.Sudanmirror.com>

Sudan Radio Service

<http://www.Sudanradio.org>

<http://Sudan.net>

<http://www.Sudantribune.com>

<http://smcSudan.net>

Civilian Protection Monitoring Team website

<http://www.cpmtSudan.org>

IRIN News (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs--SUDAN page)

http://www.irinnews.org/frontpage.asp?SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=Sudan

UN News Centre (SUDAN page)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88&Body=Sudan&Body1>

Relief Web (SUDAN page):

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-636PJQ&rc=1>

Alertnet (SUDAN page)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/246397.htm>

Humanitarian Information Center for Darfur:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/default>

Al Bab: Khartoum Handbook and Diary

<http://www.coreSudan.com>

Refugees International:

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org>

NATO

<http://www.nato.int/>

U.S. European Command

<http://www.eucom.mil/english/index.asp>

In Sudan, Sitting in One Prison to Escape Another

The Washington Post

By Emily Wax

August 10, 2005

RUMBEEK, Sudan -- Crouched in a dank prison ward, Ding Maker admits she broke the law by committing adultery. But she didn't do it for love, she says. Like many women in jail for infidelity in Sudan, she did it because she wanted a divorce. For three months, she has been sitting in a cell with 12 other women, hoping to shame her husband into repaying her dowry and leaving her.

"He abused and beat me, never paying for my food or taking care of our sick children," Maker said, adjusting her shiny green shirt over her swelling belly. She is pregnant from the affair, but not worried about it.

"I had no other way to get divorced," she said. "I was his second wife and he wasn't caring for me. I don't mind staying here. I will just wait."

In patriarchal southern Sudan, as in much of Africa, only men have the right to file for divorce. The one legal loophole for Sudanese women is to commit adultery, a crime that is instant grounds for divorce. But even then, most husbands refuse to agree to one because they don't want to ask their relatives to return the dowry -- in Maker's case, 90 cows -- they have received from the bride's family and distributed as gifts.

All of this, however, could change. Southern Sudan, now at peace after two decades of civil war with the north, is drawing up a new constitution and attempting to craft a modern penal code. With international donors reluctant to aid an entity that jails women for adultery or elopement, its new leaders are reviewing traditional rules regarding marriage, dowry and divorce.

But many women have started defying the rules on their own, in part because they became more independent from men during the civil war, and in part because the political liberation of the region has brought new ideas and influences into a tightly controlled tribal society.

Virtually all 24 women in Rumbek prison's female ward are there because they defied customary family laws. More than half have been charged with adultery; the rest have been jailed for eloping or failing to follow traditional marriage rules.

"With peace and talk of change, adultery and requests for divorce are more frequent than they were ever before," said Chief Justice Ambrose Riny Thiik of South Sudan's Superior Court. "In fact, we're all surprised it's happening already."

But Thiik, 62, wonders if citizens will accept such drastic changes. In Sudanese society, "the couple may not be in love at all," he said. "These are arranged marriages to create an economic network of family relations. If we change these rules, our entire society could change."

According to Akur Ajuoi, a lawyer who works with UNICEF, the push to reject these traditions has been a byproduct of the 21-year war between the Arab-dominated north and the African south. With their husbands away fighting for long periods, women learned to manage their own farms and cattle herds.

"Now that their husbands are back, they want more rights," Ajuoi said. "There is also a lot of influence from the outside. Times are changing and women are getting enlightened. As much as we want to say that traditions are nice and are going to stay, we should leave the harmful ones behind."

Ajuoi is an example of the new outside influences. A war refugee, she was educated in Kenya and South Africa, both more modern countries where women can obtain a divorce in the courts.

Many educated Sudanese coming home to rebuild their country have very different ideas than their grandparents. Ajuoi is also working on a measure that would make it illegal for parents to keep children out of school, even to work with crops or cattle.

But she said laws involving women may be hardest to change, largely because of money. Payment of dowry cattle is at the heart of the region's economy.

"It may be easier to get rights for children than to get women's rights. Children are viewed as gifts, whereas women are seen as having a monetary worth because of the dowry," she said.

Conservative lawyers working on the new constitution argue that putting a woman in jail for adultery is practical and that many customary laws were built upon popular opinions of what is morally correct for society.

"To be very frank, it's an important preventive measure to protect a woman from getting killed," said one of those lawyers, William Ajal Deng. "Not all of our customary laws are bad. Divorce, in my opinion, should rarely be permitted at all. It's a bad thing for children."

Maker's husband is a gruff regional chief named Manganat Deng (and not related to William Deng). He said that even though Maker "misbehaves" and gets into fights with his first wife, he is opposed to divorcing her or returning her dowry.

"Why is this woman doing this to me? It's not done," he said with a scowl. "We Dinkas don't believe in divorce, even if there are problems. I do not want that as a solution." The Dinkas are the major tribe in southern Sudan.

But others see the traditional system as biased against women. Under customary laws, a woman or man who commits adultery must pay a fine, usually seven cows or about \$800. Those who cannot pay serve six months in jail.

But there are no cases of any men being put in Rumbek prison for adultery, because they own cows and land and can afford the fines, said Cmdr. Benjamin Jok, who runs the facility. Women are not allowed to own property and so cannot bail themselves out.

"Men also are allowed to take as many wives as they can support," Jok pointed out.

He said he hardly considers the women in his custody criminals. Because the prison system has few funds, he lets them grow sorghum and ground nuts on a nearby farm and sell their produce in the market.

In certain cases, Jok agreed that jailing a woman was unfair. An elderly woman named Ayen Malual was sent to Rumbek prison because her son, an army soldier, failed to pay the dowry for his bride. Her family demanded cows, but the soldier had been sent away on duty and Malual had no animals to offer them.

"She loved my son, and we were happy with the marriage," said Malual, who sat with her spindly legs folded on the concrete cell floor. "It's just the dowry that was not there. These traditions can make things too hard. I miss my mattress and mosquito net at home."

Maker, already a mother of six, spends her nights with only a straw mat covering the cold cement. There are no toilets, so the women go to the bathroom outside. Most said they were depressed and angry, but willing to stay.

Last month Maker's 15-year-old daughter died of rabies. Four prison guards escorted Maker to the funeral. But at the ceremony, she said, her husband began shouting that he wanted to kill her.

"He started hurling sticks at me," she said. "I never want to be with that man again. My life is terrible with him. I will stay here until things change."

Sudan's Salva Kiir Has Scant Experience

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 10, 2005

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Aug 10, 2005 (AP) — He battled the northern government through 21 years of civil war, founded the southern rebel movement at the side of the beloved John Garang and strategized many military successes in the long fight for autonomy.

Now, after Garang's death in a helicopter crash, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit is stepping into his shoes. On Thursday, the commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army will be inaugurated as Sudan's first vice president and president of the new, autonomous southern government, part of a peace deal power-sharing arrangement between north and south.

The job comes with a particular twist: Kiir must make unity with the north attractive to southerners - even though he himself has called for secession.

While Kiir has no political experience, analysts and diplomats say he's up to the challenge. And his popularity in southern Sudan could prove to be the glue that holds the country together.

"I know him as somebody who thinks before he takes a decision, but when he takes a decision, he sticks with it," said Jan Pronk, the United Nations representative in Sudan. "I know him as somebody who has the respect of all the commanders (in the SPLA) and who has respect also from the people in Khartoum because he is a strong military commander."

Kiir also is known for having a cool head and being able to resolve disputes.

"The man is no slouch intellectually, and he is a leader," said Roger Winter, the U.S. special representative to Sudan. "He's his own man, a successful man, a well-liked man in the movement, he's got a broad following, he's got a different set of experiences . . . In spite of the fact that he's a military man, he's also got a reputation for being collegial in the way he does business. We all know that wasn't always Dr. John's (Garang's) trait."

In the rebel movement that was known for various splits since it was organized in 1983, Kiir stands out as one who never challenged Garang - declaring himself a fighter, not a politician.

A member of the Dinka tribe, southern Sudan's largest, Kiir joined the separatist Anyanya movement as a teenager in the 1960s. When that rebellion ended with a peace deal in 1972, he joined the Sudanese army and rose to the rank of captain.

But in 1983, he joined with Garang in deserting from the army and forming the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, a group that fought for autonomy for the mainly animist and Christian south from the Islamic-dominated northern government.

Kiir - who had more military experience than Garang - was relied on heavily in fighting. Many of the SPLA's biggest successes in battle were attributed to his leadership, and in 1999 he was made the rebel army's chief of staff.

He also was a key player in early peace negotiations, leading the southern team to Machakos, Kenya, in 2002 and signing a protocol under which the south was granted the right to hold a referendum on self-determination six years after the signing of a peace agreement - an event finally happened in January.

Kiir was absent from later stages of the negotiations under which the south was granted rights to its natural wealth - oil - and power-sharing in the central government, including giving the post of vice president to the SPLM leader.

Shortly after Garang took office, he named Kiir, his longtime deputy, as vice president of the government of southern Sudan.

In the days since Garang's death July 30, Kiir has promised to continue the late leader's vision for Sudan through implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement. Garang had always said he wanted a unified Sudan, with more autonomy for the south.

Kiir, however, was known to favour a separate state in southern Sudan, an ideology that makes him popular in the south. A recent USAID survey said about 96 per cent of southerners want to secede.

The peace agreement, with its power-sharing measures, is supposed to help make unity more attractive to southerners before they hold their referendum on secession in 2011.

Kiir has always been popular in the south. As recently as December, there was a near split within the SPLM when it was rumored Garang might remove Kiir as chief of staff.

Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani, a former presidential adviser in the peace talks and now head of a think tank, said Kiir's calm temperament would help him.

"Those dealing with him are always at ease, more than they used to be in the presence of Garang," Atabani told Al-Wan newspaper. "Therefore, he is more capable of handling a political action with wisdom and would be able to unify the southerners."

But Atabani said that Kiir would also have to devote time to northern issues and cultivating international contacts - to becoming a politician - lest he face difficulties in the national unity government, which includes President Omar al-Bashir and Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha.

"It takes three to tango in this government, and you can't do it very well with one of them limping," Atabani told The Associated Press.

Garang's Death Could Affect Refugee Repatriation Plans

Xinhua

August 10, 2005

KAMPALA, Aug 9, 2005 (Xinhua) — The recent death of Sudanese former first vice president John Garang has dampened enthusiasm for repatriation among some Sudanese refugee communities in Uganda, according to a report here on Tuesday.

"We have talked to many who had high hopes in Garang, but with his death and the riots that ensued, they seem to be changing their minds about immediate repatriation," Walter Oola, a field manager for the International Rescue Committee at Kiryandongo in western Uganda was quoted as saying.

Kiryandongo refugee settlement, in Uganda's western district of Masindi, houses some 15,800 Sudanese refugees.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson in Kampala, Roberta Russo, said her agency had planned to start voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees in Uganda by October.

At least 6,000 refugees had been expected to register for repatriation, Russo said, but Garang's death and the riots that followed had "sent some negative signals to the refugee population here."

"Following the death of Garang, this may not be achieved," Russo said, adding that "the number may be lower than that."

According to UNHCR, there were currently over 204,000 Sudanese in camps in western and northwestern Uganda, many of whom had fled the 21-year civil war between the Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and the Sudanese government.

The war ended when the two parties signed a peace agreement in Kenya on January 9, this year. Following that agreement, Garang returned to Khartoum and was sworn into office as first vice president on July 9.

No Other People Killed In Garang Crash - Uganda

Xinhua

August 10, 2005

KAMPALA, Aug 9, 2005 (Xinhua) — It is not true that there were other people killed in the helicopter crash on July 30 besides Sudanese former first vice president John Garang and 13 others, a senior Ugandan official said Tuesday.

Minister of Internal Affairs Ruhakana Rugunda, who headed the Ugandan team to Sudan made the clarification while presenting to the media a joint statement of the preliminary investigations prepared by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) investigation committee, the government of Uganda and experts from the United States.

The minister was quoted by Radio Uganda as saying that forensic experts from Uganda, SPLM/A and the United States examined all there mains and together with families of the victims determined that seven of the bodies were Sudanese including that of Garang and seven determined to be Ugandans including one female.

Rugunda said it is also not true that Sudan had withheld the bodies but it was crucial to have thorough identities over them.

Meanwhile, a committee of investigations from SPLM/A, Uganda, Russia and the United States has started their work to establish the cause of the helicopter accident.

A statement by the Sudanese First Vice President Kiir Salva said Sudan, Uganda and the rest of the world deserve answers on this great loss, according to Radio Uganda.

Khartoum At Fault In Post-Garang Violence - ICG

Reuters

By Andrew Cawthorne

August 9, 2005

NAIROBI, Aug 9 (Reuters) - Violent riots that killed more than 130 people after the death of southern Sudanese leader John Garang were exacerbated by the failure of the Khartoum government to act quickly, a think-tank said on Tuesday.

The International Crisis Group (ICG) also warned that Garang's death had created an opening for "spoilers on all sides" to undermine peace in Africa's largest nation.

Garang's July 30 helicopter crash -- just three weeks after he was sworn in as Sudan's vice-president -- stunned Africa, devastated his followers and fuelled fears the January deal to end 21 years of north-south war may unravel.

With his death rumoured from late July 30 but not confirmed until the early hours of August 1, Khartoum failed to prepare for the ensuing violence between the mainly Christian or animist southerners and Islamic northerners, ICG said.

"The government had failed to make any security preparations, leading to chaos when the riots began," it said.

Most of the violence was in Khartoum, where 111 people died and more than 300 were injured.

"From the beginning of the crisis, the confused government failed to deliver a strong, consistent message and was slow to mobilise tribal, political and religious leaders to appeal for calm," ICG added in a report on the impact of Garang's death.

The use of Arabic in news bulletins of state-controlled media instead of local dialects and tribal languages showed "lack of urgency or sensitivity", ICG added.

The report said the prospects for securing Sudan's peace accord -- a rare African success story -- had weakened.

His death "creates an opening for spoilers on all sides to exploit any signs of uncertainty", ICG said in a report.

"The country is at risk of eventually losing a peace agreement that was already looking somewhat shaky ... The festering ethnic polarisation, exacerbated by the violence and failure of the government to act quickly, risks shattering the chance for genuine reconciliation."

Garang led the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) for more than two decades in a bitter war with the Arab government in Khartoum, before helping negotiate peace. His deputy Salva Kiir has succeeded him.

But many feel Garang's dominance of the SPLM, good international ties, and working relationship with Khartoum, mean his shoes will be impossible to fill. "Authoritarian and, in his earlier years, brutal, he had survived numerous challenges and splits to hold the movement together," ICG said.

Despite Kiir's quick appointment and the SPLM's show of unity, "the appointments are not without controversy, and the risk of power struggle remains".

The Jan. 9 accord also allows people in the oil-rich south to hold a referendum on independence in six years. ICG said the odds of secession had grown with unionist Garang's death.

Thousands Trek Home After Sudan Peace Deal

Reuters

August 9, 2005

GENEVA, Aug 9 (Reuters) - A three-month trek through swamps and forests is almost over for 5,000 Sudanese seeking to return home following the end of Africa's longest running civil war, the International Organization for Migration said on Tuesday.

The southern Sudanese, who fled the decades-old civil war, began their journey to Sudan's western Bahr el Ghazal province in April -- over 400 km (250 miles) by foot -- following the January signing of a peace deal with the Khartoum government.

The largely rural population fled their homes four years ago when Sudanese government forces took control of the area. They expected their return trip to last 30 days, using trucks to transport the sick and the weak, but with most going by foot.

But heavy mining of normal traffic routes forced the party to travel through swamps and forests, using advance teams of cutters to clear brush and trees.

"All these guys had with them were simple axes. They had to even build the bridges by hand," said spokeswoman Jemini Pandya for the Geneva-based IOM.

"They've had to hack their way through very dense forest."

Heavy rains also bogged down the convoy, forcing hundreds to continue on foot when the trucks were unable to pass, she said.

For food, the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) conducted air drops.

The mass return comes as worries persist about the stability of the historic north-south peace agreement, shaken by the death in a July 30 helicopter crash of former southern rebel leader John Garang, who helped forge the accord.

There are around 6 million people displaced within Sudan and hundreds of thousands more in neighboring countries.

Some have already started going back, to the concern of aid agencies who think the infrastructure cannot cope and worry about the swathes of land planted with land mines.

In response, aid organizations like the IOM, the WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross have set up centers for registering returnees and setting out family plots in camps.

Sudan is divided between an Arabised and Muslim north and a south populated by a mix of African ethnicities, including animists, Christians and Muslims.

The 5,000 displaced southern Sudanese have taken up residence in a so-called holding facility near their home region, where they will receive seeds and agricultural tools and training to restart their lives before the last leg home.

A total of 43 died during the trek, 24 in a truck crash, the others mostly from disease. Thirty-three babies were born.

One young boy survived a case of appendicitis, to travel the last 15 km by foot, holding his intravenous feed as he walked.

"They kept him on the drip," Pandya said.

Sudan's Salva Kiir Has Scant Experience

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 9, 2005

KHARTOUM, Sudan -- He battled the northern government through 21 years of civil war, founded the southern rebel movement at the side of the beloved John Garang and strategized many military successes in the long fight for autonomy.

Now, with Garang's death in a helicopter crash, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit is stepping into his shoes. On Thursday, the commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army will be inaugurated as Sudan's first vice president and president of the new, autonomous southern government, part of a peace deal power-sharing arrangement between north and south.

The job comes with a particular twist: Kiir must make unity with the north attractive to southerners -- even though he himself has called for secession.

While Kiir has no political experience, analysts and diplomats say he's up to the challenge. And his popularity in southern Sudan could prove to be the glue that holds the country together.

"I know him as somebody who thinks before he takes a decision, but when he takes a decision, he sticks with it," said Jan Pronk, the U.N. representative in Sudan. "I know him as somebody who has the respect of all the commanders (in the SPLA) and who has respect also from the people in Khartoum because he is a strong military commander."

Kiir also is known for having a cool head and being able to resolve disputes.

"The man is no slouch intellectually, and he is a leader," said Roger Winter, the U.S. special representative to Sudan. "He's his own man, a successful man, a well-liked man in the movement, he's got a broad following, he's got a different set of experiences. ... In spite of the fact that he's a military man, he's also got a reputation for being collegial in the way he does business. We all know that wasn't always Dr. John's (Garang's) trait."

In the rebel movement that was known for various splits since it was organized in 1983, Kiir stands out as one who never challenged Garang -- declaring himself a fighter, not a politician.

A member of the Dinka tribe, southern Sudan's largest, Kiir joined the separatist Anyanya movement as a teenager in the 1960s. When that rebellion ended with a peace deal in 1972, he joined the Sudanese army and rose to the rank of captain.

But in 1983, he joined with Garang in deserting from the army and forming the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, a group that fought for autonomy for the mainly animist and Christian south from the Islamic-dominated northern government.

Kiir -- who had more military experience than Garang -- was relied on heavily in fighting. Many of the SPLA's biggest successes in battle were attributed to his leadership, and in 1999 he was made the rebel army's chief of staff.

He also was a key player in early peace negotiations, leading the southern team to Machakos, Kenya, in 2002 and signing a protocol under which the south was granted the right to hold a

referendum on self-determination six years after the signing of a peace agreement -- an event finally happened in January.

Kiir was absent from later stages of the negotiations under which the south was granted rights to its natural wealth -- oil -- and power-sharing in the central government, including giving the post of vice president to the SPLM leader.

Shortly after Garang took office, he named Kiir, his longtime deputy, as vice president of the government of southern Sudan.

In the days since Garang's death July 30, Kiir has promised to continue the late leader's vision for Sudan through implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement. Garang had always said he wanted a unified Sudan, with more autonomy for the south.

Kiir, however, was known to favor a separate state in southern Sudan, an ideology that makes him popular in the south. A recent USAID survey said about 96 percent of southerners want to secede.

The peace agreement, with its power-sharing measures, is supposed to help make unity more attractive to southerners before they hold their referendum on secession in 2011.

Kiir has always been popular in the south. As recently as December, there was a near split within the SPLM when it was rumored Garang might remove Kiir as chief of staff.

Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani, a former presidential adviser in the peace talks and now head of a think tank, said Kiir's calm temperament would help him.

"Those dealing with him are always at ease, more than they used to be in the presence of Garang," Atabani told Al-Wan newspaper. "Therefore, he is more capable of handling a political action with wisdom and would be able to unify the southerners."

But Atabani said that Kiir would also have to devote time to northern issues and cultivating international contacts -- to becoming a politician -- lest he face difficulties in the national unity government, which includes President Omar al-Bashir and Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha.

"It takes three to tango in this government, and you can't do it very well with one of them limping," Atabani told The Associated Press.

'Lost Boys' Return To Sudan To Rebuild

The Chicago Tribune

By Oscar Avila

August 9, 2005

Survival wasn't enough for the "Lost Boys," thousands of youths who fled Sudan in the 1980s without their parents and endured a perilous two-month trek to reach refugee camps.

At the Kakuma camp in Kenya, they began rebuilding their lives, creating informal networks that raised money to buy pencils, books, whatever it took to help one of their own.

Likewise, survival wasn't enough when they began arriving in Chicago in the late 1990s, part of one of the United States' highest profile resettlement efforts. The officials who aided them crossed their fingers that the young men would find jobs and adjust to their unfamiliar new home.

And now, in a development few predicted when about 125 young men arrived in Chicago with little education or money, the Lost Boys now have become vital participants in the reconstruction of Sudan. In addition to organizing relief missions and fundraising campaigns, the Lost Boys have become vocal advocates for peace in their homeland, including staging a rally over the weekend in downtown Chicago.

In recent months, several Sudanese men have returned to their homeland after two decades to assess needs. Having come of age in a makeshift extended family, the men say they feel an obligation to work for the collective well-being of their countrymen.

This month, their activism took on new uncertainty and urgency after the death of John Garang, the rebel leader seen by most Lost Boys as a hero because he led the fight for democracy and autonomy. Garang's death in a helicopter crash unleashed a wave of sectarian violence in Sudan that threatened to disrupt future relief projects.

Peter Magai Bul of Chicago, who was recently elected president of the Ayual Community Development Association, a national organization of Sudanese refugees, said Garang's death makes his group's work even more important. The association will host a summit of Lost Boys in Sudan this fall, said Bul, 23, a hotel worker.

"In southern Sudan, there is nothing in existence. People have to start over now," said Bul. "If you are in America, you have to help. We know a lot of work is going to be on our hands."

The men are coming full circle to an East African nation that began unraveling in the early 1980s because of civil war. Their people, mainly Christian, backed the Sudan People's Liberation Army, a rebel group fighting the Muslim government.

When government troops began killing the men in their home area of southern Sudan, the orphaned boys walked hundreds of miles to safety, surviving devastating heat, hunger and wild animals. They formed loose family networks among themselves. Aid workers later dubbed them "Lost Boys," after the band of orphans in "Peter Pan."

Hundreds would resettle in the United States, arriving in the late 1990s, and their compelling lives have been chronicled in the media, books and a documentary.

The twist to their saga is that the men have rebuilt their refugee-camp networks, even though

they are scattered from Georgia to South Dakota. E-mails and volunteers helped their efforts, Bul said.

In January, rebel forces and the government signed a peace treaty to end fighting in the south. While bloodshed continues in the western region of Darfur, the accord opened the door for many refugees to return.

When the first refugees from Chicago arrived in Sudan recently, they encountered a swirl of emotions: resentment and gratitude from their people in addition to their own guilt, fear and hope.

John Makeny Akuak is an example of a returning hero. He was the first of the Lost Boys in Chicago to obtain a college diploma, earning an associate's degree in 2004 from St. Augustine College.

Although Akuak saw himself as a native son, other Sudanese pegged him for an American. His accent had changed, and he had put on extra pounds after living in America for nearly four years.

Akuak, 28, said most of his countrymen were proud of his success. But they also placed their hopes in his hands, bombarding him with long lists of improvements that their villages needed or begging him to help their families.

"You try to help. But they think that if you're from America, you're rich and you should do more," Akuak said.

Akuak said he was eventually worn down by the magnitude of his homeland's destruction. He has warned his fellow Sudanese refugees that they must steel themselves emotionally if they plan to travel there.

"There are still people dying of hunger. And you can't do anything to help those people. That is difficult," Akuak said. "If [other Lost Boys aren't prepared to see that, they had better not show up."

Like Bul, Akuak has joined forces with his countrymen in the United States. He is active in the Paker Community Association, which is organizing reconstruction efforts, including a planned elementary school in his home region. Across the United States, similar attempts at reaching out are getting off the ground.

In May, three Sudanese men became the first from their Arizona community to travel back to Sudan. They joined a church mission to build water pumps. A former Lost Boy from New York state recently launched a non-profit group, Water For Sudan.

The fledgling activism of the Lost Boys has caught the attention of one of Sudan's most famous native sons, former NBA player Manute Bol. He recently came to Chicago to explore ways that his own charitable foundation might team up with the young men who want to help rebuild their homeland.

"These kids went through hell. But they're smart, they're hardworking. They're leaders." Bol said. "They have a real heart for their people."

But Dominic Malek, 26, said he realizes now that even good intentions can be costly. He said he spent \$1,700 to visit Sudan recently, not including the wages he lost when he took a leave of absence from work. Looking back, he said the trip perhaps wasn't the wisest choice at this point in his life.

Kuek Garang said he doesn't plan to visit Sudan yet because he is trying to keep his focus on earning his degree in international relations from DePaul University. But Garang, 23, does find motivation in the prospect of using that degree in his homeland.

"If you get knowledge, you can't keep your knowledge away from people seeking help," Garang said. "These are our people."

Uganda Joins Sudan in Investigating Garang's Death **The Voice of America**

By William Eagle
August 9, 2005

A Ugandan parliamentarian says his country's national assembly will look into the helicopter accident that killed Sudanese first vice president and former rebel leader John Garang nearly two weeks ago. Mr. Garang was returning to Sudan after an official meeting in Kampala when the Ugandan presidential helicopter carrying him went down in bad weather. Some critics say government negligence may have contributed to the tragedy. The government of Uganda denies the charge.

Parliamentarian Aggrey Awori of the opposition People's Progress Party in Uganda says several parliamentary bodies on which he sits will investigate the crash. He listed the Committee on Presidential and Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Defense and Internal Affairs and the Committee on Works, Housing and Communications, which he says looks into civil aviation issues.

Mr. Awori says his concern is that the Ugandan government may have violated the regulations of its own Civil Aviation Authority, or CAA, in letting the MI-172 presidential helicopter take off in poor weather in the late afternoon.

"They took off after hours, definitely. According to CAA regulations, no rotor aircraft, [like a] helicopter, can take off after 5 pm for any destination lasting more than one hour. [Also]..if you have aboard a head of state,...the weather forecast should be up-to-date before take-off and if you are expecting any changes in the [area] you are flying, that should be taken into consideration. It was a bad combination of flying at night and bad weather, [a combination which a pilot would not normally undertake]," he said.

The Ugandan parliamentarian says under normal procedures, there should have been continual contact between the aircraft and the CAA control tower. Ugandan aviation officials should also have alerted Sudanese authorities of the incoming craft, at which point Sudan would have also begun tracking it. Mr. Awori says he is not sure these conditions were met.

He says the CAA also should have advised the pilot to turn around much earlier once radar detected poor weather. And he says Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni should have advised his guest to stay in Kampala, or to cut short their mid-afternoon meeting so Mr. Garang could arrive home before nightfall.

Mr. Awori said he had suggested replacing the executive helicopter, which was eight years old, but the state comptroller said it would be too expensive.

The government denies any wrongdoing. It says the helicopter was recently upgraded, and provided with new altimeters and weather radar. Another piece of new equipment was designed to identify terrain features and an audio warning when the helicopter approaches mountains. The vehicle reportedly hit a cliff near an SPLA stronghold in southern Sudan.

Uganda's information minister, James Nsaba Buturo, says his government is investigating the crash.

"I've just finished addressing the Uganda press and the main issue we have been concerned about are people with no evidence whatsoever coming up with different versions of what happened," he said. "We have consulted others and set up a team of international investigators working alongside our own investigators to try and look into the circumstances of this national disaster... We are convinced these teams, which are independent, will come up with the true story."

Parliamentarian Aggrey Awori says this is not the first time an air disaster has changed the course of politics in the region. Eleven years ago, a plane carrying the presidents of Burundi and Rwanda crashed upon landing in Kigali, Rwanda, sparking a genocide that killed up to a million Tutsi and moderate Hutu.

"We drew the attention of the Ugandan government to that incident. The heads of state [of Burundi and Rwanda] left Arusha [Tanzania] after hours, which was also irregular. That is why we must pay more attention to procedures especially in a volatile area like the Great Lakes, where there is fighting across the border. These things may appear little, but people should pay attention to them. Even with Uganda, ... we hope and pray things will come to a conclusion [in a way] that will not make things difficult between [Uganda and Sudan]," added Mr. Awori.

President Museveni was expected to attend the funeral of Mr. Garang last Saturday but did not. Information Minister James Nsaba Buturo said the president was too devastated to attend.

"He didn't go to Juba but to a town called Yei in southern Sudan, where he paid his respects. Mind you, the president was in a unique position: He had lost a personal friend [in his own personal aircraft] along with some of Uganda's best pilots. He was particularly touched and

emotional about this matter. He felt that paying his respects in this town were quite adequate and there was no need at all to go to Juba," said Mr. Buturo.

Referring to the accident while in Yei, President Museveni said he could not rule out that the accident was due to other causes. He told mourners "Some people say it may be an accident... or it may be something else." Uganda's independent *Monitor* newspaper noted the Ugandan official at the Garang funeral handed a message to Sudanese officials noting that both countries have suffered under attacks by the Uganda-based rebel "Lord's Resistance Army."

But UN special envoy to Sudan Jan Prank told reporters the most likely reason for the accident was bad weather, poor visibility and pilot error.

Bad News For Darfur

Buffalo News

Editorial

August 9, 2005

Sudan's volatility is increasing after leader's untimely death Sudan first vice president John Garang's untimely death raises concerns about its effect on Darfur, the region Bush administration officials cite for "genocide." Those working in recent years on a Darfur political solution were encouraged by Garang's installation in a unified north-south government, because Garang had an interest in seeing the Darfur situation resolved. Now that Garang is dead, the question is whether the Khartoum government will negotiate on Darfur with the same sense of urgency. Sudan is split between the Arab-leaning north and the African, tribal south. In the west of the country, tens of thousands of mostly African refugees have died of starvation and abuse at the hands of roving bands of attackers aligned with northern leaders. Garang helped unify his region and was working on other parts of the nation. His apparent successor, Salva Kiir, will have to continue those delicate and important negotiations, as pointed out by Princeton N. Lyman, a former U.S. ambassador in Africa and an expert at the Council of Foreign Relations. Sudanese militias, in the past, were supported by the northern Khartoum government to disrupt the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south, and there is concern that elements in the north will now see an opportunity to stir up trouble. Kiir, the Liberation Movement's deputy leader, has not been as well connected to the complex politics of the north as the charismatic Garang. If Kiir takes over the vice presidency, he will have to work with a complex political situation he isn't as familiar with as Garang. Garang and Kiir had different approaches to the 21-year civil war between the north and south.

Garang wanted what he called, "the new Sudan," a multiregional federated but unified country. Kiir leaned more toward independence in the south. Which way will Kiir head now? Northern Sudan is basically an Arab country and the prospect of getting some kind of democratic system in place becomes important in terms of overall American views of the Middle East. Sudan was, at one time, home to Osama bin Laden. Settling the civil war and ending the death in Darfur will require a much more broad-based government, with Muslim, Christian, eastern and western Sudan participating. This is key to peace in East Africa. The international community has to give the situation intense attention. It is encouraging that the Assistant Secretary of State for

African Affairs, Connie Newman, and the new special envoy for Sudan immediately traveled to meet with Kiir.